

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process comprising contacting a keratin-containing material with a solution which comprises a bleaching agent to produce a protein hydrolysate and adding said ~~using the~~ protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material ~~as an additive into~~ the wet-end of a papermaking process.
2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the protein hydrolysate is derived from mammalian hair and/or feathers.
3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein the protein hydrolysate is derived from mammalian hair.
4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein the protein hydrolysate is derived from feathers.
5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein the mammalian hair is derived from livestock.
6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the feathers are derived from chickens.
7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the mammalian hair is derived from pigs.
8. (Previously Presented) Process for preparing a paper pulp comprising mixing in the wet-end of a papermaking process a protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material prepared by contacting the keratin-containing material with a solution which comprises a

bleaching agent with virgin and/or recycled cellulose fibers, and recovering the paper pulp so obtained.

9. (Previously Presented) Process for preparing a paper product comprising mixing the wet-end of a papermaking process a protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material prepared by contacting the keratin-containing material with a solution which comprises a bleaching agent with virgin and/or recycled cellulose fibers, dewatering the mixture so obtained, pressing the dewatered material, drying the pressed material, and recovering the paper product so obtained.

10. (Original) Paper pulp obtainable by the process according to claim 8 comprising protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material.

11. (Original) Paper pulp according to claim 10, comprising protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material in an amount of from 0.1 to 50 wt. %, based on total paper product.

12. (Original) Paper pulp according to claim 11, comprising protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material in an amount of from 0.3 to 40 wt. %, based on total paper product.

13. (Original) Paper product obtainable by a process according to claim 9 comprising protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material in an amount of from 0.1 to 50 wt. %, based on total paper product.

14. (Original) Paper product according to claim 13, wherein protein hydrolysate derived from keratin-containing material is present in an amount of from 0.3 to 40 wt. %, based on total paper product.